

*Capito purpuratus*, Goff. Mus. Pays-Bas, Buccon. p. 71; Reichen. Cab. Journ. f. Orn. 1875, p. 9 (descript. ad. et jun.): Oustalet, Nouv. Arch. du Mus. sér. 2, p. 68; Cass. Proc. Ac. N. Sc. Philad. 1859, p. 140.

Gaboon, *J. Verr.*; Doume on the river Ogowé, *Marche*; Camma and Moonda river, *DuChaillu*; Cameroons, *Reichen*.

9. TRACHYPHONUS GOFFINI, Schleg.

*Capito goffini*, Schleg. Mus. Pays-Bas, Buccon, p. 72; Sharpe, Ibis, 1869, p. 386 ("*Tr. purpuratus*") ; H. T. Ussher, Ibis, 1874, p. 55; Sharpe, Ibis, 1870, p. 473; id. Catal. Afr. Birds, p. 16; Büttikofer, Zool. Res. in Liber. p. 218; Marsh. Monogr. pl. 67, p. 150.

Gold Coast, *Nagtglas*; Denkera, *Ussher*; Fantec, *Sharpe*; Soforé, Liberia, *Büttikofer*.

P.S.—The existence of three species of *Trachyphonus* in the Somali country is curious and apparently improbable; but I believe nevertheless that such is the fact. Heuglin and Révoil, both trustworthy observers, have collected *Tr. margaritatus* in the northern coastlands of Somaliland; and as to this latter species, Dr. Oustalet writes me that the specimens collected by Mr. Révoil are identical with Abyssinian specimens in the Paris Museum. In the southern portion of the Somali coast (Barawa, &c.) this species is represented by *Tr. boehmi*, which extends into the Masai country, Ugogo, and Uniamwezy; and *Tr. shelleyi*, our new species, inhabits the interior highlands of the Somali country.

XV.—Notes on Woodpeckers.—No. XI. On a new Species from Arizona. By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

IN pursuing my study of the Picidæ, I happened to meet with a specimen of an adult male from the Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona Territory, which was named *Picus stricklandi*, and upon comparing it with an example of an adult male of true *P. stricklandi* from Jalapa, Vera Cruz

(De Oca), in the collection of Mr. Selater, I was surprised to find the two birds perfectly distinct, the Arizona species having the back uniform, and the bird from Jalapa having the back barred with white. In this paper I shall endeavour to show which is the true *P. stricklandi* of Malherbe, and to prove that the Arizona bird is fully entitled to specific rank.

Malherbe (Revue Zoologique, 1845, p. 373) described, under the title of *Picus (Leuconotopicus) stricklandi*, a bird which he considered to be a young female, and in his Monograph he stated that he had seen a specimen of the adult male in the British Museum; also an adult female in a collection sent to Mr. Wilson of Philadelphia, and a young male in the Darmstadt Museum. The type specimen had the back banded with white; and Malherbe asserts that it is a young bird, and that the bars disappear with age. The specimen is certainly not fully adult, because in adult plumage the breast is spotted, whereas in the type, as described and figured by Malherbe, the breast is striped; but, judging by analogy, the bird could not be a very young one, or the top of the head would be red, as in the young male of the Arizona species; and it is quite wrong to say that the white bars disappear with age, because, as the specimen in Mr. Selater's collection shows, the fully adult has also the back barred. Malherbe, in his Monograph, gives descriptions of the four examples seen by him, and he commences with that of the adult male, taken from the British Museum specimen. This bird, the habitat of which is stated on the label to be "Mexico," has the red occipital band without any red on the crown, and is undoubtedly an adult bird; but it has the back uniform, and I take it to belong to a species entirely distinct from *P. stricklandi*. The next specimen described by the author is that of an adult female, which he says only differs from the adult male in wanting the red occipital band; we may therefore conclude that the back is uniform, as in the British Museum specimen, and that it belongs to the same species. The young male is next described; and this, according to Malherbe, differs in many respects from the adult male, the chief point of

difference consisting in the feathers of the crown being tipped with red, the occiput being also red, in the young ; he also states that it has the back as in the adult male, but browner and paler. There can be no doubt that the latter is a young bird, and as the back is like that of the adult male (uniform), it belongs to the same species ; but if, as Malherbe endeavours to make out, all these specimens belong to his *P. stricklandi*, why has not the young male a barred back ? seeing that it is a younger bird than his type specimen, as is proved by the former having the crown red, whereas in the latter it is not so. One would expect the young of both sexes to be alike, and it surely could not be that the young male would have a uniform back, and the young female of the same species would have the back barred. In my opinion two species have been confounded, viz. :—*Picus stricklandi* of Malherbe, which is a bird having a barred back, and of which an immature female served as the type, and another species in which the back is uniform in all stages of plumage, and from which Malherbe's descriptions of the male adult, female adult, and young male have been taken.

This author, in his Monograph, plate xxviii. fig. 4 ♂, has allowed his artist to indicate white transverse markings on the lower back. If this is intended, as I should imagine, to represent the British Museum specimen, it is faulty, as in that bird the back is uniform. Fig. 5, on the same plate is evidently taken from the type specimen, judging by the striated breast, although the author does not state it to be so.

Mr. W. Brewster, in 'The Auk' for April 1885, describes some birds from Arizona, amongst them being what he terms *Picus stricklandi*, from the Santa Rita Mountains, and he points out that the young of both sexes have the crown red ; but he makes no mention of any barrings on the upper parts, and it is well known that in the fully adult of the Arizona species the back is uniform. Therefore I think it cannot be doubted that, as in *P. stricklandi* of Malherbe, the adults (and, judging by the plumage of the type specimen, the younger bird also) have the upper parts barred with white,



whereas in the Arizona bird the back is perfectly uniform in both old and young, they belong to different species. I therefore propose for the latter the name of *Picus arizonæ*, the diagnosis of which will be as follows :—

*P. similis P. stricklandi*, sed dorso uniformi nec albo-fasciato distinguendus.

*Hab.* In montibus “Santa Rita” dictis, in Arizona. *Ex typ.* in mus. nostr.

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XVI.—*A Review of the Species of the Genus Cursorius.*

By HENRY SEEBOHM.

TWENTY years ago the genus *Cursorius* was reviewed by Dr. Hartlaub (P. Z. S. 1866, p. 61); yet, notwithstanding the numerous collections of African birds which have since that date found their way to London and Berlin, our knowledge of the species of this interesting group had advanced but little until the visit of Mr. E. Lort Phillips to Somali-land, in the winter of 1884–85, added a new species to the list.

The Coursers form a group of about a dozen species of birds which are intermediate between the Pratincoles and the Lapwings, and probably almost as closely allied to the Bustards on the one hand and the Plovers on the other. The Lapwings and Plovers, like the Sandpipers, Snipes, and other birds belonging to the same family, have the nasal orifice placed in a groove or ditch which extends for some distance beyond it; but in *Otis*, *Cursorius*, and *Glareola* there is no nasal groove, the nasal orifice being placed in a depression not more elongated than itself. From *Otis*, *Cursorius* may be distinguished by its scutellated tarsus, and from *Glareola* by its having neither a forked tail nor a hind toe.

The Coursers are desert birds, and feed upon the insects that are found upon sandy plains. It is therefore not surprising that most of the species are confined to Africa. The range of the genus *Cursorius* extends, however, northwards into Palæarctic Africa, and eastwards through Syria, Arabia, and Persia to India and Ceylon.

It is unnecessary to repeat the synonymy of each species, which remains very much in the same condition in which it